

Washington, DC (March 9, 2011) – Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09) held his first hearing today as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications. Bilirakis examined FEMA's 2012 budget request and addressed pertinent local issues with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, who testified at the hearing.

"When it comes to preparing for and responding to emergencies, we can never be too equipped for what we may face, so it's important that we have these meetings with Administrator Fugate," Bilirakis said. "My goal is to ensure that FEMA, state, and local response groups are working together and have the resources they need, while at the same time making certain Americans' tax dollars are being used efficiently and effectively."

As Chairman of the Subcommittee, Bilirakis oversees FEMA, communications during emergency situations, grant programs for emergency preparedness and disaster response, and recovery efforts on a federal, state and local level.

Watch the hearing:

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